



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TTY/TDD 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2009

Chair Paul Branson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Members in attendance: Joe Bischofberger, Myrtle Braxton, Richard Burnett, David Grant, Rich Hedges, Julio Lacayo, Suzanne Levine, Marshall Loring, Joshua Miele, Marc Roddin, Doug Weir, Thora Worrell, and Craig Yates. Excused: Janet Abelson, Ken Altenburger, Eleanor Bloch, Dolores Jaquez, and Dennis Trenten.

Audience Member Self-introductions

Bob Planthold
Clarence Fischer

Public Comment from Audience Members

Mr. Fischer expressed concern over the capability of TransLink[®] to accommodate people with disabilities who require traveling with an attendant. He noted that you can currently purchase an RTC card with two stickers for AC Transit; however, TransLink[®] cards are only for one person. Ms. Vogler said she would follow up with TransLink[®] staff regarding his concern.

Mr. Planthold expressed concern regarding Bike to Work Day content on the MTC Web site. Ms. Levine agreed with his concern and noted the need to address the problem through diplomatic means. Mr. Loring suggested the Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee address Mr. Planthold's concern.

Minutes

The minutes were approved after a motion by Mr. Hedges and a second by Mr. Loring. Ms. Braxton abstained.

Member Updates

Mr. Roddin announced that the Santa Clara County Grand Jury released a report that graded various organizations in the county. The report stated that the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) “does not encourage informed public debate.”

Ms. Braxton attended TransForm’s annual conference and learned that the City of Hercules plans to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 50 percent using city codes, and that, in general, the Bay Area’s transit oriented developments (TODs) have too much parking.

Mr. Lacayo announced that a successful workshop on senior transportation was held on May 31 in San Mateo County. Mr. Loring made a well-received presentation at the event. Mr. Burnett announced that Solano County will hold a Senior and Disabled Transportation Summit in Suisun City on June 26.

Advisory Council Report

Mr. Grant presented the Advisory Council’s May 7 meeting minutes to the committee. There was a report about high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes and members asked how the HOT lane revenues would be spent. Mr. Grant mentioned that Commissioner Giacomini was present at the May 7 meeting and raised concern regarding the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise’s (DBE) qualifications regarding people with disabilities. Ms. Levine suggested that the committee continue following up on the issue. Mr. Planthold said the issue will be addressed at the next Advisory Council meeting.

Mr. Yates asked Mr. Grant to address the HOT lane revenue concern at the next Advisory Council meeting and also asked how the money would be spent. Rebecca Long of MTC staff said the funds would be used to self-finance the HOT lane network. The first revenues would be used for construction. She said that the legislation will create corridor working groups that will include Congestion Management Agencies (CMAs), the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA), the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and Caltrans. This working group will define the location of the corridors and determine how the money is spent. She noted that the legislation does prioritize public transit projects for receipt of the net revenue.

Subcommittee Reports

Transportation and Land Use Subcommittee Chair Hedges presented on public transportation systems in Montreal and Denver.

Mr. Hedges asked the committee to support the subcommittee's drafted policy regarding accessibility and inhabitability in TODs that receive funding from MTC. Mr. Miele and Ms. Levine said they would abstain because the item was not included in the packet. Mr. Loring suggested postponing the item until the next EDAC meeting and Mr. Hedges withdrew his item.

Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Chair Burnett reported that the subcommittee discussed the new requirement of the Section 5310 application regarding emergency preparedness of non-profit organizations.

Transit Technology and Accessibility Subcommittee Chair Miele announced he would be meeting with Carol Kuester of MTC staff regarding 511, and will have presentations on access to real-time transit information and 511 at next month's subcommittee meeting.

Mobility Management Subcommittee Co-Chair Branson announced the subcommittee would meet following the regular EDAC meeting.

Chair's Report

Mr. Branson noted that the importance of citizen advisory committees is heightened during tough economic times.

Staff Liaison Report – Ms. Vogler's announcements:

Ms. Vogler reported that the Toll Bridge Oversight Committee is considering a four-day closure of the Bay Bridge over the Labor Day weekend.

Legislative Report

Ms. Long reported that AB 1175 (Koretz - The Holocaust and Genocide) passed the Assembly. She expressed concern about a proposal by the Administration to take the local share of the gas tax and redirect it to the General Fund. She noted that this money funds the local public works departments. She mentioned that AB 113 would establish an accessibility requirement for new transit oriented developments. At the federal level, Ms.

Long reported that Congressman Oberstar will issue a press release about the upcoming federal transportation bill, and the House Energy Committee has marked up HR 2454, the cap and trade emissions bill. She also reported that the federal Highway Trust Fund is running out of money.

Member comment:

Mr. Hedges commented on the importance of forming coalitions in order to better share limited resources. Mr. Lacayo asked about the Governor's claims that the state will run out of money by July. Ms. Long noted that there is an extreme sense of budget urgency in the legislature.

Bay Area Housing and Transportation Affordability Study

Jennifer Yeamens of MTC staff presented the results of a study conducted by MTC and the Center for Neighborhood Technology and Independent Research (CNT) on the cost of housing and transportation (H + T) in the Bay Area as it relates to household income.

Member comment:

Mr. Hedges commented that downtown San Mateo is very accessible to seniors due to the accessibility to housing and services. He also suggested including employer shuttles in the study. Mr. Loring asked if CNT had included the cost of bicycling in the study, and, if so, how can that information be used to outreach to the community. Ms. Yeamans said the cost of bicycling was not incorporated due to the relatively low cost, and she noted that there are a lot of groups looking at H + T and it is the goal of staff to get the information out. Mr. Roddin asked about the study's methodology. Ms. Yeamans said that CNT has their own proprietary methodology, and she would contact him to discuss specifics. Mr. Burnett asked if all age categories were included in the study so that further analysis could be conducted by age. Ms. Yeamans said that they look at a community's characteristics, but not age specifically. Chair Branson noted that this study was far better than the study MTC completed three years ago. Mr. Miele added that disability is also an important factor to keep in mind for future a study.

CMAQ/STP Programming for the New Federal Transportation Act

Craig Goldblatt presented a framework and schedule for programming funds for the next federal transportation authorization bill.

Member Comment:

Mr. Grant asked how the money used to backfill federal ARRA funds would be restricted by the state. Mr. Goldblatt said the money will be programmed back to the STIP and CMIA programs, and some will be used for transit enhancement (TE) projects. Mr. Grant noted that it is not evident how certain fund sources are used by the state. Mr. Loring asked if EDAC would be making a recommendation about the programming of funds and suggested forming a working group in order to better understand the issues. Chair Branson asked Mr. Goldblatt to clarify his request from the committee. Mr. Goldblatt asked if the committee had any general concerns about the overall funding process and if there were funding programs and/or priorities that members want staff to consider. Mr. Miele noted that pedestrian and bicycle issues are lumped together and should be treated separately. He would also like to see a more explicit focus on pedestrian, senior and disabled issues. Mr. Goldblatt noted that funding sources will be separated into different categories. Mr. Hedges also noted that bicycle and pedestrian issues must be separated. He then asked if any of the projects would be dropped from the list, specifically the Airport Connector in Oakland. Mr. Goldblatt noted that due to the complexity of the process, any project could be potentially dropped.

Other Business, Next Meeting

There was no other business. The next EDAC meeting is scheduled for July 2, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.